

Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-13 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 IGA-02 DRC-01

/131 W

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P R 171110Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3028

INFO USUN NY 788

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL CAN THO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 9907

FOR STATE /AID

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VS, CB

SUBJECT: REPATRIATION OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEES

REF: CAN THO 0719(NOTAL)

1. WE ARE OPPOSED TO REPATRIATION OF CAMBODIAN
REFUGEES IN SOUTH VIETNAM AT THIS TIME. GIVEN THE SITUATION HERE,
THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO BRING ADDITIONAL REFUGEES TO CAMBODIA.

2. THE GKR REFUGEE PROGRAM IS ADMINISTERED BY THE MINISTRY OF
SOCIAL ACTION AND REFUGEES. BOTH THE MINISTRY AND ITS PROGRAM
ARE FEEBLE AND UNABLE TO COPE WITH REFUGEES IN COUNTRY, TO SAY
NOTHING ABOUT TRANSPORTING AN ADDITIONAL 15,000 REFUGEES FROM
VIETNAM AND THEN BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RESETTLEMENT OF
THE REFUGEES HERE. SINCE THE GKR DOES NOT CONTROL MUCH TERR-
ITORY, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO FIND A PRACTICAL PLACE IN
WHICH TO RESETTLE THEM.

3. THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL ACTION AND REFUGEES HAS ALREADY
INDICATED TO THE EMBASSY THAT HE WILL NEED \$2 MILLION TO
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TRANSPORT THE REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM. WE HAVE GIVEN HIM NO

ENCOURAGEMENT AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF AID FUNDING THIS
TRANSPORTATION.

4. WE ARE UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
REFUGEES IS WITHOLDING ASSISTANCE TO THE CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN
VIETNAM. OF ALL THE CAMBODIAN REFUGEES, THESE DO
SEEM TO FIT THE UN DEFINITION. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY
UN ASSISTANCE TO THE SERIOUS REFUGEE PROBLEMS IN COUNTRY, IT
WAS NOT CLEAR WHY THE UN CANNOT AT LEAST HELP THE CAMBODIAN
REFUGEES WHO ARE OUT OF COUNTRY.

5. WE REQUEST STATE/AID APPROACH THE UN WITH REGARD TO PROVIDING
ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN VIETNAM UNTIL SUCH TIME AS
THE MILITARY SITUATION HERE PERMITS THEIR REPATRIATION.

6. FOR CAN THO: WITH REGARD TO PARA 4 A REFTTEL, WE ASSUME YOU
MEAN KOMPONG SOM. IF NOT, PLEASE CLARIFY.
ENDERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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